



## SABIT GROUP PROGRAM FRUITS AND VEGETABLES PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FOR CENTRAL ASIA MARCH 4 – APRIL 1, 2006

### SCOPE AND MISSION

The SABIT Fruits and Vegetables Processing and Packaging Program is designed to train up to 18 senior level specialists from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). These delegates from the private sector are screened and selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce. This program will introduce participants to the procedures and equipment used for fruit and vegetable packaging and processing in the United States.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Fruits and Vegetables Processing and Packaging program will familiarize participants with equipment, standards and business management topics in the processing and packaging field. Participants will meet with leading U.S. equipment manufacturers, U.S. regulatory agencies and organizations, and U.S. companies of all sizes. The main goals are to provide a comprehensive understanding of the industry in the United States, and for these high-level managers to return home with the skills and knowledge necessary to affect change and make improvements within their own organizations.

### BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

This is a unique opportunity for U.S. companies to demonstrate their products and equipment, as well as share expertise, exchange experience and best practices with their Central Asian colleagues and potential customers. By hosting this SABIT Group, U.S. companies will build relationships with leaders of the sector in Eurasia. Through these valuable contacts, host companies can explore commercial opportunities and partnerships in the region.

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This program will begin in early March in Washington, D.C. with an orientation and visits to relevant government agencies and associations in the National Capital Area. In addition, the delegation will be trained in cross-cultural communication techniques. During the remaining three weeks the Group will travel to select regions and cities across the country to meet with industry experts and U.S. companies. A visit to the Natural

Products Expo in Anaheim, CA is planned for March 23 and 24, 2006.

### HOST THIS DELEGATION

SABIT is currently looking for U.S. hosts to provide training for a few hours or for an entire day at their facilities. Training will cover the following topics (more may be added) that are relevant to the delegates, and represents some of the current challenges they face within their organizations:

- Irrigation and harvesting equipment and techniques
- Handling methods
- Technologies in drying, freezing, juice and paste processing
- Aseptic technologies
- Canning and solid container technologies
- Glass-jar packing
- Additives and Preservatives
- Filling, labeling and packaging equipment
- R&D, variety development
- Disposal or waste processing equipment/methods
- Business and accounting practices, especially for small businesses

### COST OF PARTICIPATION

SABIT will cover the majority of program costs for all delegates, including round-trip airfare to the United States, all U.S. domestic air travel, housing, insurance, per diem for meals and incidentals, and interpreters to travel with the group. In turn, U.S. host companies and organizations are asked to provide industry expertise in the topics pertaining to this particular program.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about this program, please contact:

Erin Crouch, Program Recruiter

Voice: (202) 482-6435

Fax: (202) 482-2443

E-mail: [Erin\\_Crouch@ita.doc.gov](mailto:Erin_Crouch@ita.doc.gov)

Web: [www.mac.doc.gov/sabit/fruits.html](http://www.mac.doc.gov/sabit/fruits.html)

